

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
THE COUNCIL HOUSE,  
MALVERN.

June 1947

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MALVERN  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Although I was not in office during the year 1945, I think it is desirable to write a brief Annual Report, so that the statistics at least can be available for record purposes.

The interest in a Report so long overdue cannot be great and I propose to get the 1946 Report out as soon as the final Registrar General's figures are available.

Copies will be sent as usual to the Ministry of Health and the County Council.



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# A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

Area of land and inland water	...	...	...	7,672 acres
Registrar General's estimate of resident Population				20,980
Number of inhabited houses according to the rate books				5,864
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£154,099
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	£ 608

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health: M.J. Quirke, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.  
(Part-time)  
Chief Sanitary Inspector: Hugh L. Whitwham, M.S.I.A.  
Assistant Sanitary Inspector: R. Cruddas, (absent H.M. Forces)  
Superintendent of the Isolation  
Hospital: J.B. Jessiman, M.D. (Part-time)  
Matron, Isolation Hospital: Miss M.E. Tilt

## VITAL STATISTICS.

### BIRTHS

	Live Births		Still Births	
	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Legitimate	Illegitimate
Males	199	15	3	1
Females	182	13	4	0
Total	409		8	

Total attributable to the district 315

Birth Rate per 1000 attributable births 15  
England & Wales total per 1000 16.1

Still birth rate per 1000 live and still births 19.4

### DEATHS

Males	...	136	attributable deaths
Females	...	158	"
Total		294	"

Death rate per 1000 estimated population ... 14.0

Figure for England and Wales ... 11.4

Deaths from:-	Measles	...	0
	Whooping Cough	...	0
	Diphtheria	...	1
	Diarrhoea in children under		
	2 years	...	1
	Puerperal Sepsis	...	0
	Cancer	...	36
	Infants under 1 year		13

Infantile Mortality Rate 41.3 per 1000 live births

Figure for England and Wales 46.0





## COMMENTS ON VITAL STATISTICS

- (i) The total number of registered births is influenced by the comparatively large number of maternity homes in Malvern, which take in about one quarter of their confinements from surrounding districts. There were 409 births of which 315 were attributable to Malvern. The birth rate per 1000 of the population is based on the latter figure and is 15 against the England and Wales figure of 16.1.
- (ii) The Infantile Mortality rate per 1000 is also based on 315 births and the 13 deaths can be divided as follows:-

Prematurity	Pneumonia	Other causes	Total
5	4	4	13

It is difficult to comment on a figure like 41/1000 when it is arrived at by applying small numbers such as 13 deaths to 315 live births, but it seems rather high for a residential town like Malvern.

- (iii) There were no deaths from measles or whooping, and one in children under two years from diarrhoea. Considering the adverse housing conditions these figures are not bad. There was one death from diphtheria.

## SOCIAL CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

Until the beginning of the last war Malvern was a residential, educational and tourist centre, having practically no industries and few Public Health problems as the majority of the population were in the higher income groups. During the war there was an influx of light industry both government establishments and private companies coming to the district. The government establishments partially housed their workers in hostels but the overall effect was that the available housing was insufficient and Malvern had, probably for the first time in its history, an acute housing problem. This was temporarily met by families "doubling-up" and the use of large houses for several families. From the Public Health point of view this was not satisfactory and it was estimated that 800 new houses would be required to alleviate the situation.

As far as can be predicted these industries are here to stay and they do not seem to have had any adverse effect on the tourist trade and may well make Malvern a better balanced town. There are some unsightly temporary buildings with unpainted asbestos roofs which spoil the hill views but it is not anticipated that any great difficulty would be experienced in modifying them at a later date. There is no atmospheric pollution associated with the new industries.

## B. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

- (a) Laboratory facilities are unchanged.
- (b) Ambulance facilities Conditions remain as detailed in previous reports.
- (c) Nursing Associations: These remain unchanged.



### C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water. The water supply has been satisfactory and chemical and bacteriological tests have both been up to standard. The main sources of supply are from the deep boorings at Bromsberrow and from the British Camp Reservoir which collects upland surface water. The chemical and bacteriological analyses are shown at appendix

### D. HOUSING.

The housing problem was undoubtedly acute in 1945 as no new houses had been built during the war years and the population had increased by 5000 or approximately one third. There were only 39 cases of overcrowding noted by the Sanitary Inspector however, and it is interesting to note that the number of rateable properties (5864) gives a figure of 3.6 persons per property which is an approximate indication of the number of people per house. This figure was checked by a random sampling of 50 working class houses inspected during the war years which gave a density of 3.8 people per house.

On these figures alone the need for 800 new houses is not clear but it must be remembered that there are now many young married couples wanting to set up house for the first time and also there are many workers in Malvern who are separated from their families on account of the present shortage, and who wish to bring them to Malvern at the earliest opportunity.

### E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Routine inspection is impracticable under war conditions. Action is taken whenever the necessity arises.

### F. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following table shows the numbers of Infectious Diseases notified during 1945.

Disease	All Ages	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-
Scarlet Fever	32	-	1	3	7	9	5	7
Diphtheria	23	-	3	4	7	2	3	4
Whooping Cough	18	2	8	3	4	1	-	-
Measles	299	34	48	42	104	54	7	10
Acute Polio- myelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	32							
Dysentery	123							
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1							
Erysipelas	15							
Puerperal Pyrexia	1							
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2							







## TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 16 Pulmonary cases notified during the year, and 10 deaths, and 4 Non-Pulmonary notified with 1 death. Pulmonary cases numbered 38 male and 40 female. Non-Pulmonary cases totalled 24. These figures were taken from the register at the end of 1945.

I am unable to write more than a brief report as I think it is undesirable to comment on conditions or statistics with which I am not fully conversant. I hope to get the 1946 report out shortly.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A.F. TURNER.

Medical Officer of Health.

## APPENDIX.

### M A L V E R N    W A T E R

<u>Chemical Examination.</u>	<u>31st January 1945</u>	<u>6th July 1945</u>
Solids in Suspension ...	None	None
Solids in Solution at 100°C ...	26	27
Solids in Solution after Ignition	21	24
Chlorine as Common Salt ...	3.7	3.3
Free and Saline Ammonia ...	0.002	None
Albuminoid Ammonia ...	0.001	None
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours ...	0.013	0.013
Nitrogen as Nitrates ...	Trace	None
Colour ...	Clear	Clear
Deposit ...	None	None
Odour ...	None	None
Toxic Metals ...	None detected	None detected
Hardness - Permanent ...	9	8
Temporary ...	11	12
Total ...	20	20

## Bacteriological Examination.

Number of Colonies developing upon Agar		
(a) In two days at 37°C	1 per one m.l.	Nil per one m.l.
(b) In three days at 22°C	1 per one m.l.	1 per one m.l.
Coli-aerogenes Count ...	nil per 100m.l.	Nil per 100m.l.
Streptococci ...	Absent	Absent

